

Take in the breathtaking view on top of the Hooiberg Hill



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm

WATER'S EDGE
RESTAURANT & BAR



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beach resort

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

Happy Hour
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

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What Americans think about Trump and Musk's plans for the federal government: AP-NORC poll

By LINLEY SANDERS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans see the federal government as rife with corruption, inefficiency and red tape but they're less sure about whether Elon Musk is the right person to fix it.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows that only about 3 in 10 U.S. adults strongly or somewhat approve of President Trump's creation of an advisory body on government efficiency, which Musk is helming. About 4 in 10 disapprove, while the rest were neutral or didn't know enough to say. (The poll was conducted before Vivek Ramaswamy announced he would no longer be involved in the group.)

The goal of the advisory body, the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, is to expose fraudulent and wasteful spending across the federal bureaucracy, and its leaders have floated a range of possible ways to cut costs, including eliminating entire agencies. But although most agree that the federal government is facing major problems, many Americans



Elon Musk reacts as President-elect Donald Trump speaks at a rally ahead of the 60th Presidential Inauguration, Jan. 19, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

also have an unfavorable view of Musk and are hesitant about the Republican president relying on billionaires for advice about government policy. As the plans take more concrete shape, the poll shows that Americans are ambivalent about some of the changes that Trump and his team have mentioned in the past few months including eliminating large numbers of federal jobs and moving

federal agencies outside Washington. Substantial shares don't have an opinion, indicating that there's plenty of room for opinion to shift in either direction. A return-to-office policy for federal workers which was one of Trump's first executive actions on Inauguration Day is fairly popular. Americans see a broken federal government but aren't as concerned about the 'deep state'

As Trump sweeps into his second term with promises to cut regulations and reduce the role of government bureaucrats, most Americans think the federal government has serious problems. About two-thirds of U.S. adults say corruption and inefficiency are "major problems" in the federal government, and roughly 6 in 10 say the same about red tape, such as government regulations and bu-

reaucracy.

Republicans are more likely than Democrats to think these are major problems but a majority of Democrats still agree that corruption and inefficiency are significant challenges for the government.

But despite Trump's claims that career federal workers resisted his policies during his first term, concern about civil servants who are unwilling to implement the president's agenda is not as high. Only about one-third of Americans say this is a big problem in the government.

Many dislike Musk and mistrust billionaires' influence broadly

Musk was a prominent part of Trump's inauguration ceremonies given a seat inside the Capitol Rotunda for the event, then speaking at a rally shortly after Trump was sworn in.

About one-third of Americans have a favorable view of Musk a billionaire and the world's richest person which is down slightly from December. Americans' views of Musk and Trump have a fair amount of overlap: About 8 in 10 Americans share the same view of both men, whether positive or negative. □

Trump ends Fauci's security detail and says he'd feel no responsibility if harm befell him

By WILL WEISSERT and ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

FLETCHER, N.C. (AP) —

President Donald Trump has ended the federal security detail for Dr. Anthony Fauci, the infectious disease expert who advised him on the COVID-19 pandemic, a person familiar with the matter said Friday.

Fauci is the latest in a string of former Trump aides-turned-critics to see their federal protection canceled despite ongoing threats to their lives.

Speaking to reporters in North Carolina on Friday, Trump said he wouldn't feel any responsibility if harm befell the former govern-

ment officials. A person familiar with the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensi-

tive security issues, said that Fauci's federal security detail was ended on Thursday and that he has since hired

private security.

When asked about Fauci and former national security adviser John Bolton, Trump said, "They all made a lot of money. They can hire their own security, too." Trump, a Republican, earlier this week revoked protection details for former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his top aide, Brian Hook, as well as Bolton. All have faced threats from Iran since they took hard-line stances on the Islamic Republic during Trump's first administration and fell out with him in the years after he left office in 2021.

Fauci was a regular at Trump's side early in the

COVID-19 outbreak but grew critical of Trump after the president tried to undermine public health guidance. Fauci faced regular threats to his life and has received federal protection for years.

Bolton, Hook and Pompeo had their security details repeatedly renewed by the Biden administration because of credible and ongoing threats from Iran. Fauci's was also repeatedly renewed by President Joe Biden, a Democrat, because of domestic threats. "You can't have a security detail for the rest of your life because you worked for government," Trump said. □



Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, testifies during a hearing at the Capitol in Washington, Sept. 14, 2022.

Associated Press

Putin echoes Trump's claim that conflict in Ukraine could have been avoided had he been in office

By **VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday echoed U.S. President Donald Trump's claim the conflict in Ukraine could have been prevented had he been in the White House in 2022. He also said Moscow is ready for talks with the U.S. on a broad range of issues.

In an interview with Russian state television, Putin praised Trump as a "clever and pragmatic man" who is focused on U.S. interests.

"We always had a business-like, pragmatic but also trusting relationship with the current U.S. president," Putin said. "I couldn't disagree with him that if he had been president, if they hadn't stolen victory from him in 2020, the crisis that emerged in Ukraine in 2022 could have been avoided."

Putin's statement was his bluntest endorsement yet of Trump's refusal to accept his defeat in the 2020 election.

Trump also has said repeatedly he wouldn't have allowed the conflict to start if he had been in office, even though he was president as fighting grew in the east



Russian President Vladimir Putin applauds while attending a ceremony to award the Order for Valiant Labour to the members of teaching staff during a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lomonosov Moscow State University in Moscow, Russia, Friday, Jan. 24, 2025.

Associated Press

of the country between Kyiv's forces and separatists aligned with Moscow, ahead of Putin sending in tens of thousands of troops in 2022.

On Thursday, Trump told Fox News that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy should have made a deal with Putin to avoid the conflict.

Putin emphasized Friday that he's open to talks but

pointed to Zelenskyy's 2022 decision to rule out negotiations with Moscow.

"How is it possible to conduct talks if they are banned?" Putin said. "If the talks start in the existing legal framework, they would be illegitimate and the results of those talks could also be declared illegitimate."

He also said the U.S. and Russia have many other

items on their agenda, including nuclear arms control and economic issues.

"We can have quite a lot of points of contact with the current administration and search for solutions to key issues of today," Putin said. He said the sanctions against Russia introduced during Trump's first term and under Joe Biden's administration had hurt U.S. interests, undermining the

dollar's role in global financial system.

Putin described Trump as "not only clever, but a pragmatic man," adding. "I find it hard to imagine that he would make decisions that would hurt the American economy."

"We'd better meet and have a calm conversation on all issues of interest to both the United States and Russia based on today's realities," Putin said.

He noted that as top oil producers and major industrial powers, Russia and the U.S. aren't interested in global oil prices being either too low or too high. "We have things to talk about," Putin said.

Speaking by video from the White House to the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on Thursday, Trump said the OPEC+ alliance of oil exporting countries shares responsibility for the nearly 3-year-old conflict in Ukraine because it has kept oil prices too high.

"If the price came down, the Russia-Ukraine war would end immediately," he said. Energy sales form a large part of Russia's earnings. □

Colombia president decrees emergency powers to restore order in coca region wracked by rebel combat

By **ASTRID SUAREZ**
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's president issued a decree Friday giving him emergency powers to restore order in a coca-growing region bordering Venezuela wracked in recent days by a deadly turf war among dissident rebel groups.

President Gustavo Petro's decree gives him 90 days, which can be extended, to impose curfews, restrict traffic and take other steps that would normally violate Colombians' civil rights or require congressional approval.

It is the first time in more than a decade that a Colombian president has used

such an extreme measure and underscores the seriousness of the current conflict in a country that for decades was paralyzed by political violence.

However, it applies only to the rural Catatumbo region near the border with Venezuela, where the Colombian state has struggled for decades to gain a foothold. In the past week, at least 80 people have been killed and an estimated 36,000 more displaced as fighting intensifies between the National Liberation Army, or ELN, and holdouts from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

Petro's conservative opponents have criticized

the move, accusing the former guerrilla of riding roughshod over the constitution. But some activists have celebrated it, saying they are hopeful the move translates into better infrastructure, health care and schools in the traditionally lawless region.

"Why are the armed groups here? Because the last government hasn't made investments. They've abandoned us," Jaime Botero, an activist in the town of Tibu, told The Associated Press.

Earlier this week Petro reactivated arrest orders against 31 top ELN commanders that had been suspended as part of an effort to woo the the Cuban revolution-

inspired insurgency into a peace deal to end its 60 year war against the state. Petro also suspended all

peace talks, which have advanced slowly since he took office in 2022. □



Police patrol in Tibu, Colombia, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, following guerrilla attacks that have killed dozens of people and forced thousands to flee their homes in the Catatumbo region.

Associated Press

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Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



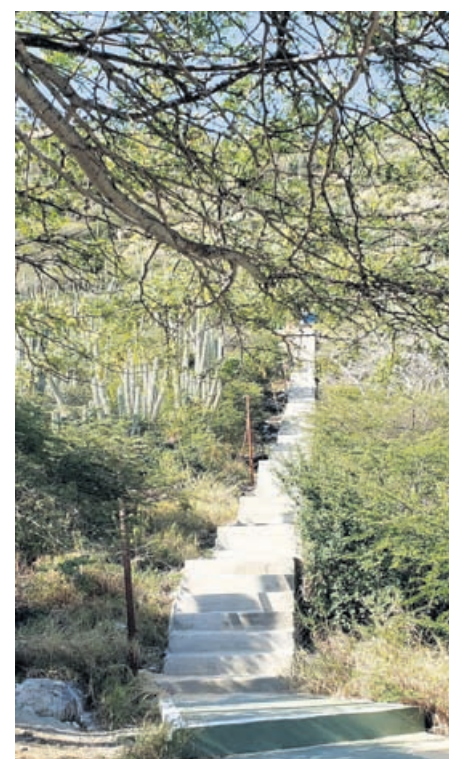
(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you

can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg



Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamana Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park. The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see. The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open



all day, every day. ☐

Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

ST. CRUZ — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.



Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface

sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok

national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! ☐

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We celebrate our National Hero Betico Croes

ORANJESTAD – The island of Aruba celebrates a special day today, **January 25th**. Today we honor the late pro-autonomy political leader **Gilberto Francois (Betico) Croes**, a central figure who helped the island attain the Status Aparte – the status of autonomous country within the kingdom of the Netherlands, separate from the other islands of the Antilles.

Aruba was allowed to function as a commonwealth within the Dutch Kingdom and Betico is honored for this outcome since 1989 by celebrating the Dia di Betico. The official holiday normally features performances, sporting events and

games throughout the island.

Croes himself was not able to enjoy the results of his ongoing struggle; he was involved in an accident on December 31, 1985, and went into a coma. He passed away on November 26, 1986. For the Aruban people, his words will never be forgotten. He told his people: "Si mi cay na caminda, gara e bandera y sigui cu e lucha" which means "If I were to fall on the way, grab the flag and continue with the fight."

Active man

Betico was born on January 25, 1938. Croes had four children: two sons—Glenbert Croes and Gilberto

Junior Croes and two daughters—Glendeline Croes and Guisette Croes. Both of Croes' sons served as ministers. Betico was also the uncle of Aruba's current Prime Minister, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes.

The father of the Aruban nation or the Liberator (Libertador) as he is called often, was an active man in Caribbean organizations while he studied in the Netherlands. Betico was a social man, participated in sports and the social and cultural community. He worked as a teacher and instituted the official seal, flag and hymn for the island. During the Round table Conference of 1981, he was responsible for formal-

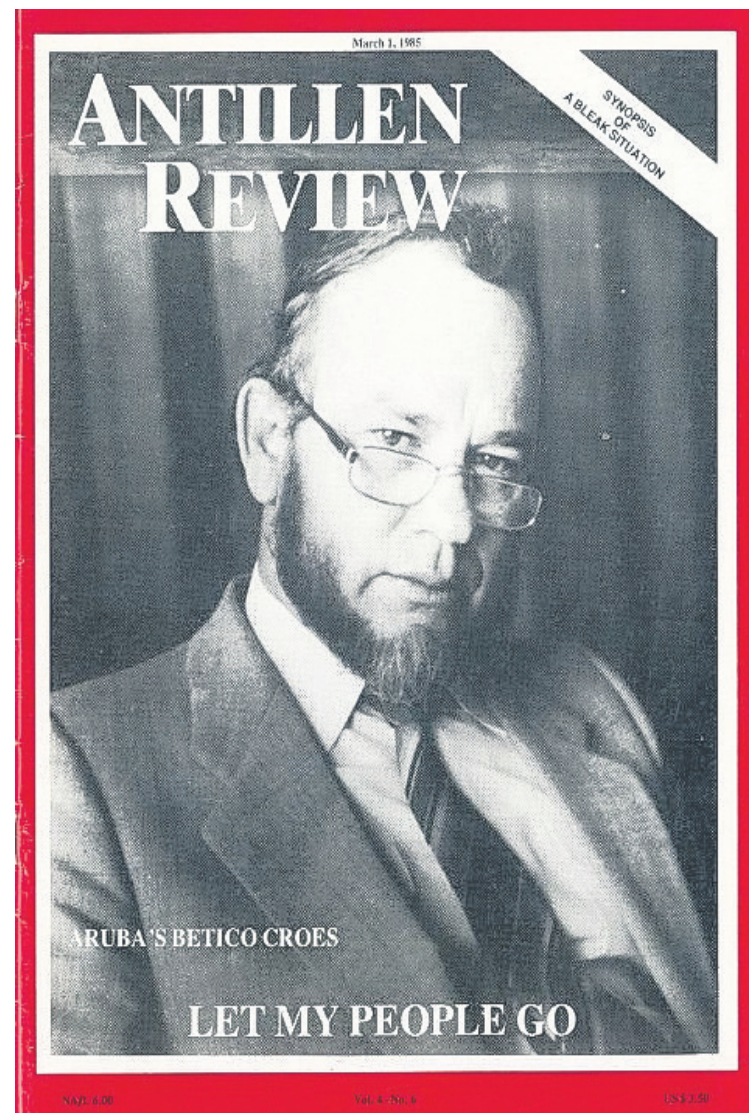
ly setting the date for Aruba's independence. Betico also became leader of the political party Movimiento Electoral di Pueblo (MEP), now the main party that forms the current government that was elected in September 2021. There were two stages in which the Independence was formed: the first one was set for 1986, the second was set for ten years later and enhanced the independence from the Netherlands. However, it never came to a total independence of Aruba in 1996; it was dropped in 1990. The Status Aparte within the Kingdom of the Netherlands was to be a permanent one. □



Join the festivities!

Today the entire island celebrates Betico through various local events. Ranging from art exhibitions, sports, car shows and food, there's enough to enjoy the Aruban culture on this special day. Here are a few activities for the whole family to enjoy:

- National Commemorative Ceremony —Plaza Betico Croes—9:00 to 19:30
- Art From the Heart—Banda di O'Neil Kitchen—9:30-14:30
- Exposition—Archivo Nacional Aruba—10:00-14:00
- Fleamarket—Club Caquetio Paradera—10:00-16:00
- Aruban Creole Food—Centro di Barrio y Deportivo Dakota—12:00-15:00
- Games—Plaza Deto Varis, Kas Ariba-Don Flip Racing—14:00-20:00
- Betico Croes Cup 2025 (Kids Baseball)—C.B.T.I.—16:00-20:30
- Betico Croes Cup 2025 (Soccer)—Centro Deportivo Frans Figaroa—19:00
- Betico Croes Celebration—Renaissance Market Place—18:00-22:00
- Lexus Car Meet & Cruise—KVK Parking Lot Eagle Beach—10:00
- Local music: Grupo di Betico—Renaissance Market Place—20:00
- Local music: Caha di Orgel, Rincon Boys—Renaissance Market Place—19:00-22:00
- Local music: Steelpan—Aruba Nautical Club—12:00-20:00
- Sound Show—Do It Center—15:00-23:00





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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Bay

1 Mentioned 44 Bygone

6 Make car

broader 45 Assurance

11 Detest

12 Dancer

Castle

13 Designer

Geoffrey

14 Depart

15 "Death-

trap" writer

Levin

16 Dogfight

winner

18 Pulled off

19 Pen point

20 Parties

21 Slugger

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22 Holy

24 Infield

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25 Jeffer-

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27 Took turns

29 Glides

32 Sticky

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42 Brink

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1 Rustic

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2 Spain

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3 Hercule

Poirot

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6 Strata-

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7 Hot

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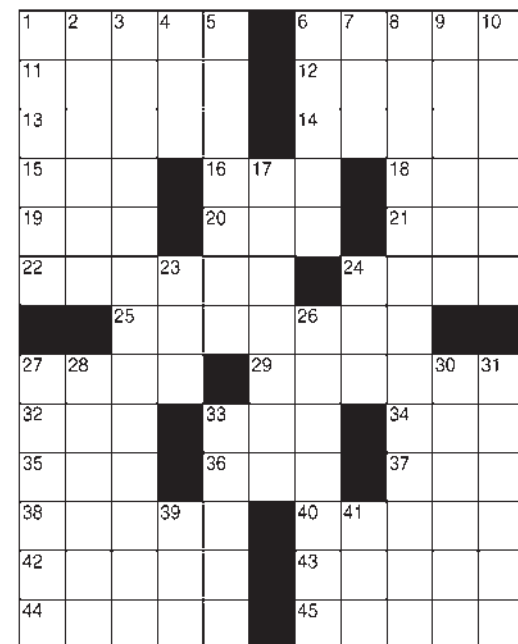
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39 Candle

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41 One —

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1-26

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-26

CRYPTOQUOTE

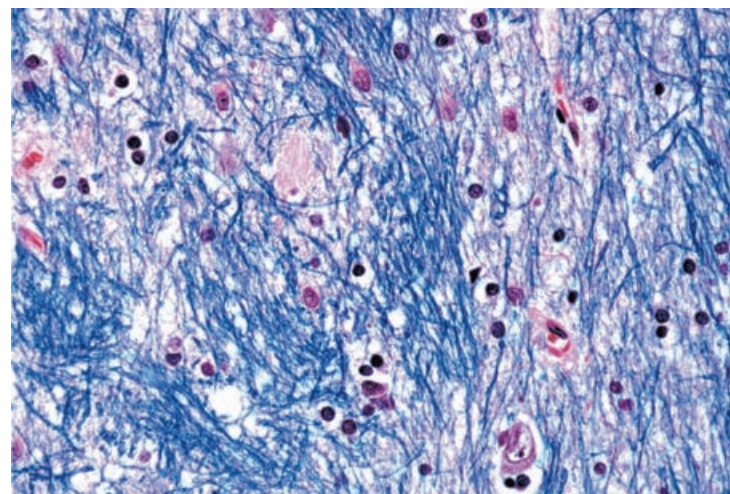
EUIHYHGFD YV QRH RQCX

HND EUDIHDVH RJ OYUHGDV,

LGH HND SIUDQH RJ ICC HND

RHNDUV. — ZYZDUR

Cryptoquote: LOVE WON'T BE
TAMPERED WITH, LOVE WON'T GO AWAY. PUSH
IT TO ONE SIDE AND IT CREEPS TO THE OTHER.
— LOUISE ERDRICH



This microscope photo provided by the McLean Hospital's Harvard Brain Tissue Resource Center in January 2024 shows cells in the caudate nucleus structure of the brain in a person with Huntington's disease.

Associated Press

Surprise finding sheds light on what causes Huntington's disease, a devastating fatal brain disorder

By LAURA UNGAR

AP Science Writer

Scientists are unraveling the mystery of what triggers Huntington's disease, a devastating and fatal hereditary disorder that strikes in the prime of life, causing nerve cells in parts of the brain to break down and die.

The genetic mutation linked to Huntington's has long been known, but scientists haven't understood how people could have the mutation from birth, but not develop any problems until later in life.

New research shows that the mutation is, surprisingly, harmless for decades. But it quietly grows into a larger mutation until it eventually crosses a threshold, generates toxic proteins, and kills the cells it has expanded in.

"The conundrum in our field has been: Why do you have a genetic disorder that manifests later in life if the gene is present at conception?" said Dr. Mark Mehler, who directs the Institute for Brain Disorders and Neural Regeneration at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and was not involved in the research. He called the research a "landmark" study and said "it addresses a lot of the issues that have plagued the field for a long time."

The brain cell death eventually leads to problems with movement, thinking and behavior. Huntington's symptoms which include involuntary movement, unsteady gait, personality changes and impaired judgment — typically begin between the ages of 30 and 50, gradually worsening over 10 to 25 years.

Scientists at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, McLean Hospital in Massachusetts and Harvard Medical School studied brain tissue donated by 53 people with Huntington's and 50 without it, analyzing half a million cells. They focused on the Huntington's mutation, which involves a stretch of DNA in a particular gene where a three-letter sequence CAG is repeated at least 40 times. In people without the disease this sequence is repeated just 15 to 35 times. They discovered that DNA tracts with 40 or more such "repeats" expand over time until they are hundreds of CAGs long. Once CAGs reach a threshold of about 150, certain types of neurons sicken and die.

The findings "were really surprising, even to us," said Steve McCarroll, a Broad member and co-senior author of the study, which was published Thursday in the journal Cell. The study was partly funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, an organization that also supports The Associated Press Health and Science department. □

Djokovic quits mid-match and walks off to boos, putting Zverev in Australian Open final vs. Sinner

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Spectators booed an injured Novak Djokovic as he left the court in Rod Laver Arena after quitting one set into his Australian Open semifinal against Alexander Zverev on Friday.

Dealing with what he said was a torn muscle, Djokovic lost the opening set 7-6 (5) when he put a forehand volley into the net, then began shaking his head and immediately walked over to tell Zverev the match was over. The 37-year-old Djokovic packed up his equipment and walked off toward the locker room, pausing to respond to the jeers by giving two thumbs-up.

At his news conference, Djokovic said the pain in his taped left leg was "getting worse and worse." He hurt it during his quarterfinal victory over Carlos Alcaraz on Tuesday night.

"I knew," Djokovic said, "even if I won the first set, it was going to be a huge uphill battle for me."

He was bidding for an 11th championship at the Australian Open and record 25th Grand Slam title over-



Novak Djokovic of Serbia reacts during his semifinal match against Alexander Zverev of Germany at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 24, 2025.

Associated Press

all. Instead, it will be No. 1 seed and defending champion Jannik Sinner facing No. 2 Alexander Zverev in Sunday's final.

Sinner overcame some third-set cramping and beat No. 21 Ben Shelton of the United States 7-6 (2), 6-2, 6-2 in Friday's second semifinal to return to the Australian Open final as he seeks a third Grand Slam

title.

Zverev is 0-2 in major finals; this will be his first at Melbourne Park.

"Everything can happen," said Sinner, who is on a 20-match unbeaten run. "He's an incredible player." For Djokovic, this is the second time in the past four major tournaments he was unable to finish because of an injury: He withdrew from

last year's French Open before the quarterfinals because he tore the meniscus in his right knee during a match.

Djokovic underwent surgery in Paris and, less than two months later, reached the final at Wimbledon, then won a gold medal for Serbia at the Paris Olympics.

Zverev, a 27-year-old Ger-

man, lost finals in five sets at the 2020 U.S. Open and 2024 French Open.

"My goal is still to compete with the big guys and to compete for these kind of tournaments and try to win them," Zverev said. "For that, I need to get better. I need to improve on the court. I need to improve physically."

During his on-court interview, Zverev pleaded with the fans not to give Djokovic a hard time.

"I know that everybody paid for tickets and everybody wants to see hopefully a great five-set match," he said. "But you've got to understand Novak Djokovic is somebody that has given this sport, for the past 20 years, absolutely everything of his life." The only set of Djokovic vs. Zverev lasted 1 hour, 21 minutes and included 19 points that lasted nine strokes or more apiece. The first four games alone lasted 31 minutes, slowed both by the lengthy baseline exchanges and Djokovic's deliberate pacing between points, taking the 25-second serve clock down to and occasionally slightly beyond the full allotment. □

Japanese boxing star Inoue heads to US after big KO. His promoter wants him to get Ohtani-style love

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese boxing superstar Naoya Inoue is headed to the United States after another devastating knockout.

His promoter wants Americans to cherish Inoue as much as they do Shohei Ohtani.

The unbeaten Inoue nicknamed "The Monster" knocked out overmatched South Korean opponent Ye Joon Kim in the fourth round in Tokyo on Friday to remain the undisputed super bantamweight champion.

It was Inoue's third successful defense of his super bantamweight titles and took his record to 29-0, with 26 KOs.

Bob Arum, Inoue's promot-

er at Top Rank, confirmed afterward that Inoue's next fight will be in Las Vegas. His last fight outside Japan was in Vegas, when he beat Michael Dasmarinas in June 2021.

Nearly four years on and Inoue will arrive as a pound-for-pound superstar who is a four-division world champion in light flyweight, super flyweight, bantamweight and now super bantamweight.

Whetting the appetite, Arum evoked comparisons with Ohtani, the Japanese baseball player who is the headline act for the defending World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers. "I observed that the great country of Japan has given

Ohtani to Los Angeles," Arum said.

"And at least for one fight, the great country of Japan will give the great Inoue to the city of Las Vegas this spring."

Kim was only fighting Inoue as a replacement for Sam Goodman, an Australian who pulled out because of a recurrence of an eye injury that forced the postponement of the original bout with Inoue scheduled for Dec. 24.

In a bold move, Kim invited Inoue to take a shot at him early in the fourth round. Inoue responded with a devastating right hand that sent Kim to his knees. He couldn't beat the count.

"I feel a lot of love from ev-

eryone. I appreciate it," Inoue said. "Overall, I think it was a good match. I didn't have enough time to study

my opponent, so I just took time to see what was coming from him." □



Japanese champion Naoya Inoue celebrates after defending his super bantamweight world title at the Ariake Arena in Tokyo, Friday, Jan. 24, 2025.

Associated Press

The ties between soccer and the NBA are real, and they're still growing

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — San Antonio star Victor Wembanyama stood outside in the rain on a cold Paris night. He wore a parka, a hooded sweat-shirt, jeans and sneakers. And then he spent a few seconds showing off his skills.

A basketball was not involved.

Wembanyama like so many others in the NBA is obsessed with soccer. He was one of the star attractions at a Champions League match between Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City earlier this week. Down on the side of the field, Wembanyama put on a juggling



San Antonio Spurs center Victor Wembanyama celebrates during the second half of a Paris Games 2025 NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers in Paris, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025.

Associated Press

contest went wild trying to figure out exactly where the Argentina great was so they could grab a photo. James acquired a piece of Liverpool in 2021, through his investment with Fenway Sports Group. Antetokounmpo became a part-owner of Major League Soccer's Nashville SC in 2023. Heat guard Josh Richardson is in the process of investing in a team.

The ties between the NBA and soccer are many and growing.

"It underlines the impact we can have as NBA players," Wembanyama said. "It just reminds me of that responsibility that we have to make our best to make that impact positive. Overall, just bringing emotions to people and bringing it together."

The NBA looks at soccer, particularly in Europe, very closely. The way clubs there have in-season tournaments was part of what convinced NBA Commissioner Adam Silver that such an event would work in his league. The tournament, now called the NBA Cup, has been a smash success in its first two seasons.

Even now, with the NBA in talks with FIBA and other entities about new collaborations for basketball in Europe, Silver is pointing to soccer as an example of what could work.

"Having had this long history from our operation of sports leagues, largely in the United States and a little bit elsewhere, seeing what's happened in Europe not just in basketball but in soccer as well, it gives us the opportunity to say, 'All right, let's take a fresh look at what are the most effective practices for creating a commercially viable league,'" Silver said.

The Spurs are making their PSG fandom official. There's now a business relationship between the teams; this week with San Antonio in Paris to play a pair of games with the Indiana Pacers. □

show, flicking the ball in the air over and over, sometimes alternating between feet, without it hitting the ground. It's a skill that takes at least a fair bit of soccer ability. He made it look easy.

"He could come and play with us," PSG star Achraf Hakimi said.

Wembanyama left the stadium with a jersey that night, smiling like someone would be if they left an NBA arena with one of his jerseys.

Wembanyama, the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, Milwaukee teammates Giannis Antetokounmpo and Damian Lillard, Miami's Jimmy Butler, Dallas' Luka Doncic and New York's Josh Hart are just a few of the soccer-obsessed players in the NBA right now and they're following in the footsteps of former stars like Steve Nash, Goran Dragic, Kobe Bryant, Pau Gasol and plenty of others who starred in basketball but loved soccer.

"Soccer players are way more famous than NBA players," Antetokounmpo said. "Way, way, way more famous."

Inter Miami star Lionel Messi went to a Miami game last season and the Heat crowd used to seeing celebrities at just about every

Today we honor
OUR LIBERATOR
GILBERTO FRANÇOIS "BETICO" CROES

An exemplary person, who not only heard the voice of his people but also worked on our happiness and our freedom.